

Dear Co-Chair Daugherty-Abrams, Co-Chair Steinberg, Vice Chair Anwar, Vice Chair Kushner, Vice Chair Gilchrest, Ranking Member Hwang, Ranking Member Somers, Ranking Member Petit, and other distinguished members of the Public Health Committee:

I would like to voice my opposition to Bills S.B. 477 & H.B. 5397.

SB 477 focuses on more laws for more guns, not the root problem of violence. It appears to be a scheme to hide an anti-gun agenda platform into a Public Health bill at the taxpayers' expense. It seeks to create a whole new arm of government that focuses narrowly on violence with a specific heavily regulated item and ignores the roots of all violence.

HB 5397 would declare "gun violence" a public health crisis and establishes an Office of Gun Violence Prevention. It also fails to effectively address the root causes—where is the mention of suicide prevention?—but focuses narrowly on violence with a specific heavily regulated item and ignores the roots of all violence.

I urge you to either make these bills and their intention more inclusive of the entirety of violence that, as "public health" issues, they purport to address, or to oppose them altogether.

Thank you for your time & attention to this matter,

Laura Springer
Southbury, CT